

From: Joseph Duffy
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello.

My name is Joseph Duffy. I am a professional programmer who uses Microsoft software, and especially Microsoft development tools every day. These tools experienced a renaissance while there was viable competition from companies like Borland. But since Microsoft head-hunted Borland's staff and weakened other potential competitors like Java and the Netscape browser, the work has stagnated. There hasn't been a major new feature since 96.

I am opposed to the settlement because we've already tried to restrict Microsoft's conduct with restrictions and it failed. The taxpayers would have been saved a great deal of money on this trial if that original settlement had been more foresighted, to say nothing of the innovations that might have come from the different ideas of more small and nimble competitors. If conduct measures are used, the penalty for misconduct must be powerful enough to act as a deterrent, like opening of source code or company breakup.

I am a real person and this is the only letter I will send to you. I say this because Microsoft has several times in the past has been found to use the dishonest tactic of "stuffing ballot boxes" in order to create the illusion of "grassroots" support for its position.

Thank you for listening.
Joseph Duffy